Repair and Maintenance of Rishikesh-Nitimana National Highway

†*349. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of rupees are spent annually towards repair and maintenance of Rishikesh-Nitimana National Highway which is repeatedly damaged between Kalyasore and Khankara at Sirobagar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Dugripanth-Langualionbagar- Khankara by-pass has been constructed on the said National Highway but the same has not been declared as a National Highway due to which attention is not paid towards repair of both roads;

(c) by when the said by-pass would be declared as a National Highway; and

(d) the plan to deal with the repeated damages to the road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Rishikesh — Mana section of NH 58 is being maintained in traffic worthy condition with normal maintenance grant of Rs. 43,900/- per km. per year. This includes maintenance of the road stretch from Kalyasore to Khankara (10 km. Length) affected by landslides. Landslides are natural phenomenon occurring on hill roads particularly during monsoons. In addition to the normal repairs and maintenance, in the last two years a sum of Rs. 6.00 crore has been spent for development of this section of NH 58.

(b) There is no such bypass on NH-58.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The plan to deal with the repeated damages to the road due to landslides/ blockades includes stabilization of slopes by providing plantation/vegetative cover and other stabilization measures. Stabilization of hill slopes is a continuous process.

PDS in Tribal Areas

†*350. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 20 kg. of foodgrains was being provided earlier in tribal areas under the Revamped Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether 20 kg. of foodgrains is also being provided to persons below poverty line now;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether requirement of the tribal people would be met thereby;

(d) if not, whether Government propose to increase the quantity of foodgrains and by when;

(e) whether price of foodgrains under B.P.L. has been increased; and

(f) if so, whether B.P.L. consumers would be given respite from this increase and by when?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) Under the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS), foodgrains were issued @ 5 kgs per head per month subject to a maximum of 20 kgs per family per month. The RPDS covered 1775 identified blocks in the country including 1073 blocks in tribal areas.

(b) to (d) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the allocation of foodgrains for BPL families was fixed @ 20 kgs per family per month with effect from 1.4.2000. The same has been enhanced to 25 kgs. per family per month with effect from July 2001.

Since the PDS is only supplemental in nature, the quantity of foodgrains provided under the TPDS does not fully meet the requirements of an average BPL family, whether in a tribal areas or in some other area.

(e) and (f) The Central Issue Price (CIPs) of wheat and rice for BPL families were revised downwards with effect from 25.7.2000. There has been no increase since then.

Technology Upgradation in Small Scale Sector

*351. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to support the SSI Sector, going in for technology upgradation and modernisation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the highlights of the said scheme and how the scheme is going to help in view of Government's open import policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Comprehensive Policy Package for the Small Scale Industries announced on 30th August, 2000, the Government have launched a Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation of the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) which provides capital subsidy equal to 12% of the loan raised by